



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The *Associated Press* reports that starting next summer, many power plants, hospitals, universities and companies in 36 states will be forced to store low-level radioactive waste, because a South Carolina landfill is closing its doors to them. As of July 1, the landfill will take waste only from South Carolina and the two states with which it formed a partnership, New Jersey and Connecticut. (See items [5](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that construction crews started to work on a new, 10-lane interstate bridge to replace the one that collapsed over the summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The contract for its replacement requires completion by December 24, 2008. (See item [15](#))

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## **Energy Sector**

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 2, Reuters* – (National) **Oil above \$95**. Oil climbed more than \$2 on Friday above \$95 a barrel as concerns about tight supplies in the run up to winter prevented a major sell-off. U.S. crude rose \$2.08 to \$95.57 a barrel. Oil prices have risen 40 percent since mid-August, driven by expectations of tighter supplies this winter, a weak dollar and an inflow of money into commodities as a global credit squeeze has riled other markets. Supply worries continue to support prices, especially as oil demand growth from emerging economics such as China and India is not expected to cool even if the

U.S. economy slows down.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/02/AR2007110200637.html>

2. *November 1, Reuters* – (Mississippi) **Propane pipeline blast kills two in Mississippi.** A propane pipeline explosion in Clarke County, Mississippi on Thursday killed two people and caused an evacuation in a one mile radius. A spokesman for Enterprise Products Partners LP, which owns the 12-inch Dixie Pipeline, said it was still burning. Dixie has a 35,000 barrel per day capacity. “Emergency responders are reporting at least two fatalities and five homes damaged or destroyed as a result of the explosion,” the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said in a press statement.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071101/us\\_nm/propane\\_mississippi\\_explosion\\_dc;\\_ylt=AowPNNICcuJewkaH9YqJdW0WIr0F](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071101/us_nm/propane_mississippi_explosion_dc;_ylt=AowPNNICcuJewkaH9YqJdW0WIr0F)

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

3. *November 2, The Herald News* – (New Jersey) **Chemical spill shuts Clifton center.** The Jewish Community Center in Clifton, New Jersey was set to reopen Friday morning after a leak of more than 250 gallons of a substance used to disinfect swimming pools caused the evacuation of 200 people. The leak occurred around mid-morning Thursday when a pipe or valve ruptured, letting loose 250 or 300 gallons of hypochlorite solution. The liquid substance leaked onto the floor of the maintenance room, into the parking lot and into storm drains. Officials blocked the storm drains, preventing further seepage, but some of the solution flooded into the parking lot. As of early Thursday afternoon, officials had plugged the leak and awaited the arrival of the state Department of Environmental Protection to direct the cleanup. An agency spokeswoman confirmed late Thursday afternoon that the DEP was on scene.

Source:

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk1OCZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5NzIxNjE1NCZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVlRUV5eTM=>

4. *November 2, KXAN Austin, Texas* – (Texas) **Major chemical spill shuts down major roads.** HAZMAT crews responded to the scene of a major chemical spill that occurred Friday morning in Northwest Austin, Texas. A tanker truck collided with another vehicle spilling dozens of gallons of potentially toxic chemicals, including hypochlorite, sodium bisulfite and gasoline. Department of Public Safety troopers shut down 620 in both directions between 183A and State Highway 45. The closures also include the eastbound flyover at 183A and State Highway 45 westbound at MoPac.

Source: <http://www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=7302605>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

5. *November 2, The Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **South Carolina nuclear landfill closing.** Starting next summer, many power plants, hospitals, universities and companies in 36 states will be forced to store low-level radioactive waste, because a South Carolina landfill is closing its doors to them. At issue is the Barnwell County dump site, a 235-acre expanse that opened in 1971. The equivalent of more than 40 tractor-trailers full of radioactive trash from 39 states was buried there each year before South Carolina lawmakers in 2000 ordered it to scale back, because they no longer wanted the state to be a national dumping ground. As of July 1, the landfill will take waste only from South Carolina and the two states with which it formed a partnership, New Jersey and Connecticut.  
Source:  
<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/nation/11/02/1102nuclearwaste.html>
6. *November 2, The Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Arizona Nuclear Power Plant Off Lockdown After Security Alert.** Security officials at the nation's largest nuclear power plant detained a contract worker with a small, crude explosive device in the back of his pickup truck, investigators continue to search his apartment. The worker was stopped at the entrance of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, about half a mile from the containment domes where the plant's nuclear material is stored. Authorities described the device as a six-inch capped explosive made of galvanized pipe that contained suspicious residue. Security officials put the nuclear station on lockdown, prohibiting anyone from entering or leaving the facility. The lockdown was lifted a few hours later.  
Source:  
<https://vpn2.safelink.net/story/,DanaInfo=www.foxnews.com+0,2933,307696,00.html>
7. *November 2, WSOCTV* – (South Carolina) **York County wells near nuclear station declared safe.** Tests on dozens of wells near the Catawba Nuclear Station in York County, South Carolina have just come back and they show the water is safe. Health officials tested wells last month for a radioactive element called tritium. The tests were done after high levels of tritium were found in well water on the nuclear station property. Twenty-five private wells tested showed no tritium at all. One well did show a small amount of it, but it was far below the government standard for safe drinking water. That one well will be re-tested.  
Source: <http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/14495019/detail.html?rss=char&psp=news>
8. *November 2, Sauk Valley News* – (Illinois) **Byron nuclear station up and running after 12-day shutdown.** Byron Generating Station is up and running again. Both nuclear reactor units at the station returned to service Wednesday after a 12-day shutdown to repair non-radioactive water pipes. A leak in one of the pipes, caused by external corrosion, was found October 19 during an inspection as workers prepared the pipe for testing, and both units were shut down during the repair period. In a release, the company noted that the water system is on the non-nuclear side of the plant and not in direct contact with any reactor components.  
Source:  
<http://www.saukvalley.com/articles/2007/11/02/news/local/294453670372400.txt>

9. *November 1, Platts* – (Alabama) **NRC to increase oversight at Farley-2.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a yellow finding at Farley Nuclear Plant in Alabama related to failures of residual heat removal system containment sump suction valves at unit 2 during surveillance testing in April 2006 and January 2007. The NRC said November 1 that the yellow finding, which means the issue has substantial safety significance, will result in additional NRC inspections and potentially other agency actions. NRC said its inspection in May found that Southern Nuclear Operating Co. failed to promptly identify and correct the failures.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7722612.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *November 2, The Washington Post* – (National) **Navy cancels another ship contract.** The Navy yesterday terminated a General Dynamics contract to build a ship to patrol waters close to shore after the company and the service were unable to strike a deal on costs. The littoral combat ship program has been plagued by hundreds of millions of dollars in cost overruns, prompting intense congressional scrutiny. Two prototypes of the ship are still under construction, but at a cost that is up to twice the original \$220 million projection for each. A similar clash over costs with Lockheed Martin led the Navy this year to cancel one of the two ships it was building. Both companies will be allowed to complete their prototypes. The Navy said its decision to cancel the ship was disappointing and reflected mistakes made in the service's strategy for building the 55 littoral combat ships. The program was put on an accelerated schedule and used new shipbuilding techniques, such as relying on non-Navy shipyards.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/01/AR2007110102596.html>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *November 2, The Herald News* – (Illinois) **FEMA: Scam artists may target area's flood victims.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a warning of fraudsters trying to take advantage of residents living in Illinois's flood-stricken areas. Officials say people in disaster-damaged areas need to stay on the lookout for scam artists posing as government representatives, contractors or insurance agents. While no fraud officially has been reported in the Fox Valley after August rainstorms, it is best to stay vigilant, a FEMA spokeswoman said. Some of these door-to-door imposters will claim they are endorsed by a government agency but, in reality, neither the state of Illinois nor FEMA endorse or certify contractors. The most common ruse is for an illegitimate contractor to promise a resident he can expedite claims payments or the issuance of building permits. While federal and state inspectors have gone door-to-door in the region, FEMA representatives always wear photo identification

and will never ask for money in return for assistance. Officials said homeowners should be wary of contractors who go door-to-door, and noted that someone who comes to your door wearing a FEMA shirt is not necessarily a federal employee.

Source:

[http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/632105,4\\_1\\_JO02\\_SCAMS\\_S1.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/632105,4_1_JO02_SCAMS_S1.article)

12. *November 2, The Times* – (Indiana) **Attorney general warns of phone scam.** Indiana's attorney general (AG) alerted residents of a scam involving con artists calling and pretending to be a consumer's credit card institution informing them of fraud on their account. They claim the company learned the consumer's credit card was used fraudulently and then offer to credit the account. The scam artists often have the name, card number, and address of the consumer and all they need to complete the scam is the verification number. Because the caller has the personal information, the consumer might be tempted to provide additional information. "We can't emphasize enough that a legitimate credit card company will never call you and request that you provide them information on your card," said the AG. The attorney general reminded consumers to never give out information to people who call unsolicited.

Source:

[http://nwitimes.com/articles/2007/11/02/news/lake\\_county/doc87f8a7753b7a45e68625738700050570.txt](http://nwitimes.com/articles/2007/11/02/news/lake_county/doc87f8a7753b7a45e68625738700050570.txt)

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## **Transportation Sector**

13. *November 2, The Associated Press* – (Mississippi) **New span connects Miss. cities split by Katrina.** Two of the new bridge's six lanes between Biloxi and Ocean Springs, Mississippi opened to traffic Thursday night following a day-long celebration at both ends of the \$338 million structure. The span, which replaced the bridge destroyed during the Katrina hurricane, reconnects the casino resorts of Biloxi with the shops and tree-lined streets of Ocean Springs, on the eastern side of the bay. All six lanes of the new bridge — and the path for pedestrians and bicyclists — are to be open by April. Around 35,000 cars a day crossed the four-lane bridge before Katrina.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-11-02-bridge\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-11-02-bridge_N.htm)

14. *November 2, Computerworld* – (National) **TSA moves forward with transportation worker smart-ID initiative.** After months of delay, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has taken the first steps towards issuing new smart card identity credentials to transportation workers around the country. Earlier this week, the agency began enrolling about 6,000 port workers, longshoremen, truckers and other employees at the Texas port of Corpus Christi into its Transportation Worker Identity Credential (TWIC) program. Corpus Christi is the second port to begin the enrollment process. In mid-October, the Port of Wilmington, Delaware became the first location in the country to start enrolling workers into the program. Over the next few days several other ports, including Honolulu, Hawaii, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Tacoma, Washington, and Beaumont, Texas will follow suit. About 1 million transportation workers at 147 ports

nationwide are expected to be enrolled into the program by the end of 2008, according to a TSA statement released Wednesday. TWIC was put in place by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to boost security at some 4,000 transportation facilities around the country after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Under the program, all workers at the nation's transportation facilities will be required to carry a DHS-issued smart-card credential if they want unescorted access to secure areas of buildings, ports and vessels. Workers who want to enroll for the card are required to undergo and pass a criminal background check before the tamper-proof biometric credential can be issued to them. According to the TSA, the cards will cost transportation workers around \$132, which is slightly lower than the original estimate of \$150.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9045319&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9045319&intsrc=hm_list)

15. *November 1, The Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Minneapolis Bridge construction starts.** On Thursday, construction crews started to work on a new, 10-lane interstate bridge to replace the one that collapsed over the summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The contract for its replacement requires completion by December 24, 2008. In Washington, D.C. on Thursday, federal officials released the additional \$123.5 million to help pay for the replacement. That money, from an emergency relief fund, comes on top of the \$55 million the federal government released earlier from the fund for the project.

Source:

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8SL6NMG1&show\\_article=1&catnum=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8SL6NMG1&show_article=1&catnum=1)

16. *November 1, The Cincinnati Post* – (Ohio) **Bomb scare shuts down interstate.** On Wednesday, a truck driver found a suspicious looking device, which had wires, red lights and a countdown timer, but no explosive material, in Hamilton County, Ohio. The device, which was located along Safety Way, forced the closure of Interstate 75 in both directions, as well as closing Lockland elementary, middle school and high schools, a factory and several homes. Officials are not certain if the bomb was intended as a joke or something more serious. Police have no suspects so far.

Source:

<http://news.cincypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071101/NEWS01/711010368>

17. *November 1, Associated Content* – (New Jersey) **Man detained at airport for having false documentation.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers detained a passenger at the Newark Liberty International Airport, New Jersey for having forged passports, a social security card, and New York and New Jersey drivers' licenses and falsely claiming citizenship to the United States. The man, who arrived on a Continental flight from Santiago in the Dominican Republic, also had a criminal record.

Source:

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/434127/man\\_detained\\_at\\_airport\\_for\\_having.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/434127/man_detained_at_airport_for_having.html)



18. *November 1, Imaginova Corp.* – (National) **Long lines don't impact screening quality.**

A new study conducted by researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) found that as the lengths of security wait lines grew at the airport, security screeners sped up their inspections of laptop computers. However, screeners did not speed up while inspecting any other type of carry-on baggage or people's personal effects. "We conjecture that the screeners are more comfortable speeding up inspections of laptops because that's an item they're well-trained to inspect and because laptops are more uniform, as opposed to carry-on bags, where there are many more variations," said one of the researchers. He added: "These findings will be reassuring to the Transportation Security Administration, because the speed-up we detected will not have a drastic effect on security. If it happens at one airport, I suspect it's not just at that airport" where screeners maintain the thoroughness of their inspections when they see long waiting lines.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21569234/>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

19. *November 1, The Milford Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Postal sting nets arrest of Milford woman on pot dealing charge.** The U.S. Postal Service, detectives and a drug-sniffing dog intercepted a package of marijuana en route to a home address in Milford, Massachusetts. Police arrested the addressee on October 31 on a possession with the intent to distribute charge. Local postal workers became suspicious of the package and a U.S. Postal Inspection Services employee was summoned. According to a detective lieutenant, officials got a federal warrant to open the package after police brought in a drug-sniffing dog that got a 'hit' for drugs. Police found plastic baggies of marijuana inside the package, wrapped up "layer and layer and layer" in an attempt to conceal the drug's smell, the detective lieutenant said. A District Court judge then granted police a search warrant yesterday for the address on the package. Meanwhile, the team wrapped the package back up and sent it along to the addressee via the postal inspector from Boston, who donned a delivery man's uniform and drove in a postal truck. The lieutenant, along with two detectives and two patrolmen went to the home later with the warrant. Police arrested the addressee after finding the package of pot, as well as smoking pipes, contraband and packaging materials in her apartment.

Source: <http://www.milforddailynews.com/homepage/x1375673806>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

20. *November 2, Missouri Ruralist* – (International; National) **Asian beef trade team returns.** A special team of U.S. Department of Agriculture negotiators has returned from a two-week tour of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan. The acting agriculture secretary says their mission was to continue work with Japan and Korea on opening their markets to U.S. beef, and to reach out to the other countries in an attempt to get them to move more quickly to accept international standards for beef trade. The

secretary said President Bush will press the Japanese Prime Minister to open Japanese markets during the Japanese prime minister's scheduled mid-November visit to the U.S. Source: <http://missouriruralist.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=30680&fpstid=1>

21. *November 2, Asheville Citizen-Times* – (North Carolina) **Cattle farmers struggle to weather drought.** This year's severe drought has driven the price of cattle feed up, forcing many Southeastern cattle farmers to sell more animals than normal. The resulting supply glut has in turned depressed the prices those farmers are getting for their cattle. In light of these conditions, North Carolina officials are concerned that many cattle farmers will simply get out of the business altogether. North Carolina lost 1,000 farms in 2005, more than any other state that year, and has lost 6,000 farms since 2002. To help with the crisis, the Golden Leaf Foundation has agreed to provide \$500,000 to cover half the transportation cost of trucking cornstalks and soybean hay from eastern North Carolina to cattle farmers in the mountains. The program has received 1,500 applications, but only a few dozen mountain farmers have taken advantage of it so far. Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071102/BUSINESS/71101121/1122>
22. *November 1, The Associated Press* – (National) **Totino's and Jeni's brands may have contaminated pepperoni.** On Thursday, General Mills recalled about 5 million frozen pizzas sold nationwide under the Totino's and Jeni's labels because of possible E. coli contamination. The problem may have come from pepperoni on pizzas produced at a General Mills plant in Ohio. General Mills said the pepperoni was not produced in the Ohio plant, but came from a separate supplier, the name of which they would not release. The voluntary recall covers pizzas containing pepperoni that have been produced since July, when the first of 21, potentially related E. coli illnesses emerged. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that eight of the victims have been hospitalized, and four have developed kidney failure. Eight of the cases were reported in Tennessee, with the other cases found in smaller numbers in Kentucky, Missouri, New York, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin and South Dakota. General Mills said it is cooperating fully with the ongoing investigation. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21581821/>

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## **Water Sector**

23. *November 1, The Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Tennessee town runs out of water in southeast drought.** This summer, the small town of Orme, Tennessee ran out of water. To provide the residents with water until wetter weather arrives, the volunteer fire chief drives the fire truck to an Alabama fire hydrant where he meets another truck from New Hope, Alabama. The two trucks make about a dozen runs, hauling around 20,000 gallons of water from the hydrant to Orme's tank. Water is released from this tank between 6 and 9 p.m. every evening. The town has received a \$377,590 emergency grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the town's mayor hopes will be Orme's salvation. A utility crew is laying a 2 1/2-mile pipe to connect Orme to the Bridgeport, Alabama water supply. The work could be finished by Thanksgiving.



Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,307437,00.html>

24. *November 1, The Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Federal authorities probe area wastewater plant.** The F.B.I. and the federal Environmental Protection Agency are investigating claims that wastewater was treated improperly at the McAlpine Creek plant operated by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities, a city spokeswoman said. A former employee at the plant, in south Mecklenburg County, raised concerns about proper procedures not being followed when wastewater was returned to the creek. A report by a local television station said that a whistle-blower reported that millions of gallons of polluted water have been allowed to flow into the creek and that pollution test results were falsified on occasion. The report said that federal investigators are seeking water samples as well as lab reports dating to 2002. The head of the utility company said that he did not know the details of the allegations, “But the ones that you’ve described to me -- it certainly appears that what the allegations are claiming just are not believable.”  
Source: <http://www.charlotte.com/109/story/343130.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

25. *November 1, Health Day News*– (National) **Consumers still buying risky imported drugs online: FDA.** Many Americans are buying unregulated drugs over the Internet from foreign countries, more in an apparent effort to avoid the need for a prescription than to save money, U.S. health officials said Thursday. During a year-long investigation of imported drugs, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it found that 88 percent of the 2,069 drug packages it examined appeared to be prescription medicines also available in the United States. The other 12 percent were dietary supplements, foreign products with labeling that was illegible or incomprehensible, and medications not available in the United States. “The data lead us to believe that many people are buying drugs online not to save money but to bypass the need for a prescription from their doctor, since these Web sites typically do not require the purchaser to have a prescription,” said the FDA’s deputy commissioner for policy. While Web sites can appear legitimate, they can also be fronts for illegal operations, the FDA said. The agency urges consumers to be wary of unregulated Internet drug sellers, because “many of their products may not contain the correct ingredients and could contain toxic substances.”  
Source: <http://health.usnews.com/usnews/health/healthday/071101/consumers-still-buying-risky-imported-drugs-online-fda.htm>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

26. *November 2, The Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Fire in Senate Office Building.** On November 2, U.S. Capitol Police were investigating the latest in a series of suspicious fires occurring in Senate office buildings. According to the police spokeswoman, a small fire was discovered around 8 a.m. in a second floor woman’s restroom in the Dirksen

Senate Office Building. It was quickly extinguished and there were no evacuations of injuries. This was at least the seventh confirmed fire of a suspicious nature in the office buildings since late September and Capitol Police are exploring the possibility that they are linked. A mass e-mail was sent out by the Capitol Police in early October regarding the fires and asking for tips. The e-mail also said that more building patrols have been added to investigate.

Source: [http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8SLJK381&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8SLJK381&show_article=1)

27. *November 1, The Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Regents will arm campus police.** The Iowa Board of Regents voted October 31 to arm campus police, reversing a 40-year-old policy that prohibited campus police from carrying guns. This proposal was part of an overall security plan, which also calls for an annual report to the regents that addresses the status of safety and security on the campuses, including mass communications, threat assessments and training of personnel. In addition, the plan requests that the universities implement a system for emergency communications, including an outdoor warning system and voice and text messaging systems; implement a system to identify, assess and manage people who may be a threat to themselves and others; and require campus police to exceed state firearms training standards.

Source: <http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=178785>

28. *November 1, The Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Bomb scare at immigration service in Bloomington.** Police are investigating a bomb scare outside the federal immigration service in Bloomington, Minnesota involving a government transport van parked. Police dogs ‘hit’ on the van, which was parked outside the building that houses U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. There was a limited evacuation of the building and roads around the building were closed. A search found no bomb or suspicious device.

Source:

<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D8SKVNMGO>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

29. *November 2, PRNewswire-USNewswire* – (International) **United States, Canada and Mexico agree to mutual assistance during public health emergencies.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Ministry of Health of the United Mexican States today agreed to strengthen cross-border coordination and cooperation in the surveillance, prevention, and control of infectious diseases for the protection of the health, well-being, and quality of life of their peoples. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) commits the three countries to assist one another during a public health emergency, whenever possible, and sets forth examples of the types of aid the three countries may provide to and accept from one another during a public health emergency. As outlined in the MOU, all three countries agree to cooperate to improve their public health emergency preparedness and response efforts in activities such as border health, laboratory testing, diagnosis and treatment, epidemiological investigation, and the control of infectious diseases. The MOU also

commits all three countries to strengthen their operating procedures and processes for the sharing of laboratory information before and during an emergency; to continue the technical review and the sharing of assay methods, reagents and laboratory results; and to participate in trilateral or bilateral exercises to assess and strengthen public health emergency response plans.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=15&id=6480>

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## **Information Technology**

30. *November 1, Computerworld* – (National) **Webroot warns of spoofed presidential campaign sites.** The growing use of the Internet as a communication and fund-raising medium by presidential candidates has a nasty new doppelganger -- an elaborate, if short-term, revenue stream flowing to online crooks. Perpetrators are busy setting up spoofed presidential candidate sites designed to lure unwary voters into parting with their money, their personal data or both, according to security vendor Webroot Software Inc. The sites are designed to look like legitimate candidate Web pages, with solicitations for visitors to click on links, make donations or download screen savers and videos. Those who click on the links can get infected with a variety of spyware programs and other malware programs, company executives said today. One such malicious program is a Trojan horse called Zlob; a relatively venerable piece of code, Symantec identified the same Trojan years ago as Trojan.Zhopa. It is designed to deploy various malware tools capable of giving attackers remote access to compromised systems, or of stealing keystrokes and passwords. Many of the spoofed web sites use URLs that take advantage of typographical and spelling errors that a user might make when entering a candidate's Web site address according to Webroot.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9045238&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9045238&intsrc=hm_list)

31. *November 1, InfoWorld* – (National) **IBM to spend \$1.5 billion to improve computer security.** IBM will spend \$1.5 billion developing computer security products in 2008, a sum that could double the company's previous spending. \$1.5 billion "is much more than we've ever spent," a general manager in IBM's services unit who is responsible for security programs told The Wall Street Journal. The company would not say exactly how much it previously spent on data security, but an analyst from Pund-IT Research said \$1.5 billion could double IBM's typical spending on security research and product development, according to the *Associated Press*. IBM issued a press release Thursday saying IT security is becoming more difficult because of collaborative business models, sophisticated criminal attacks and increasingly complex infrastructures.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9045279&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9045279&intsrc=hm_list)

## Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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### Communications Sector

32. *November 1, The Wall Street Journal* – (National) **States step in to close broadband gap.** Tired of waiting for the federal government's promise to make high-speed Internet connections available to every home, a number of states have taken on the task themselves. Kentucky has been so successful -- the state says 95% of its households can now buy broadband service if they want -- that federal lawmakers and regulators want to replicate its program nationwide. An Ohio representative recently introduced legislation to provide grants for states to follow Kentucky's lead, and a Senate version of the bill has passed the Commerce Committee. In October, the House Energy and Commerce Committee passed a bill that would compel the Federal Communications Commission to pinpoint where broadband service is available -- and where it isn't. The campaign for nationwide broadband service comes on worries that the U.S. has not kept pace with other developed countries, and that rural districts will lose jobs. This week, the FCC took steps to get a clearer picture of the gaps in broadband availability. The commission will be asking companies for the number of broadband subscribers in each ZIP Code -- eventually using the nine-digit code -- and it wants to collect more-precise data on transmission speeds. That can be tricky. While Internet providers keep detailed maps of their networks, they are not required to share the information with regulators, and won't do so voluntarily for fear of tipping their hand to competitors. And the FCC measures broadband deployment by ZIP Code, so if one subscriber in a ZIP Code has broadband access, the zone is considered covered. Without a precise count, consumer groups and lawmakers say it is impossible to determine the best way to close the gaps, which occur mostly in less-populated and poorer areas. Consumer advocates have their eye on another FCC program, the \$7 billion Universal Service Fund that subsidizes the cost of rural telephone service. For several months, the FCC has been wrestling with rule changes that could free up some of the money for high-speed Internet.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119388040866078585.html?mod=telecommunications\\_primary\\_hs](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119388040866078585.html?mod=telecommunications_primary_hs)

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### Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *November 2, The Associated Press* – (New York) **Blaze in upstate NY kills 15,000 ducks.** A fire broke out late Tuesday night at a three-story Bethel, New York warehouse

rented by Hudson Valley Foie Gras, the nation's largest producer of foie gras. 15,000 ducks were killed and the entire warehouse was destroyed. Investigators believe the blaze started in a garage and jumped to the main building, where thousands of breeding ducks were housed. While Hudson Valley's owner said he believes the fire was accidental, the company was the target of a lawsuit by animal rights activists, who say the practice of force-feeding ducks is cruel. A state judge dismissed the lawsuit in May. Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gniC4EdOU39IIA5tBTya0gnID1uwD8SL96800>

34. *November 1, The Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **5,000 evacuated after fire starts at ASU's Memorial Union.** Tempe firefighters battled a blaze on the third story of the Memorial Union building at Arizona State University's Tempe campus Thursday. Up to 5,000 people were evacuated from the Memorial Union after the fire started around 12:48 p.m. Neither the area around the building, nor any other buildings was evacuated. The fire was classified as a two-alarm fire, with over 60 firefighters on the scene. Arizona State also sent out emergency text notifications and posted a warning on the homepage of their Web site to alert students. This was the first time the university used the text message warning system. Fire officials said everything went according to procedure. No injuries were reported and there was no structural collapse. Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/1101abrkasufire1101-ON.html>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

35. *November 1, The Business Journal of Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Officials raid \$50 million in marijuana operations.** Federal, state and local authorities eradicated 25,000 marijuana plants with a street value of \$50 million and arrested 17 individuals involved in marijuana growing operations in the Tonto National Forest in northern Arizona. Federal charges have been filed against 18 individuals by the U.S. Attorney's Office. Seventeen individuals are in custody and one remains at large. The charges involve five operations active during the May to October growing season. The operations were supported by supply routes in Maricopa County. Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2007/10/29/daily48.html>
36. *November 2, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **Mystery of Arch cable break continues.** Despite expecting answers in early September, officials say they still do not know what caused a tram cable to snap inside the Gateway Arch three months ago, when visitors had to be evacuated from the national monument. The investigation into the cause continues, "because there is no definitive cause for the cable breaking, no 'smoking gun' so to speak," the deputy superintendent at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial said. Breaks in the lines that hoist elevators and other conveyances are extremely rare, but potentially dangerous. This was the first time a tram cable has broken at the Arch. Currently, only the north tram, the one unaffected by the cable break, remains in service. Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/9317864C7F1D79D9862573870010B461?OpenDocument>

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## **Dams Sector**

37. *November 2, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Experts: High water could cause Lake O dike failures.** A panel of engineering experts has found that water has likely already started seeping through parts of the Herbert Hoover Dike in Florida, initiating what could become a dike failure if the level of Lake Okeechobee rises significantly. According to the report to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that was made available today, should the lake reach 17 feet above sea level, there's "significant potential" for the dike's deterioration to progress "at a number of locations around the dike." At a lake level of 21.5 feet, dike failure would be "certain" at specific locations. As long as the lake remains below 11.6 feet, no part of the dike has a "high risk of failure." the panel recommended the corps perform "detailed risk analyses" of each potentially vulnerable section of the dike "as soon as possible." The conclusions of this report are similar to an earlier one by a panel of engineering experts hired by the South Florida Water Management District. That report said there was a 1-in-6 chance the dike would collapse in a given year, and a 50-50 chance of failing in the next few years.

Source:

[http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/tcoast/epaper/2007/11/02/1102leakin\\_gdike.html](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/tcoast/epaper/2007/11/02/1102leakin_gdike.html)

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